

DIAA Board of Directors' Meeting
Thursday, January 21, 2021 – 12:30 P.M.

<u>Names</u>		<u>Names</u>	
Dr. Bradley Layfield - Chairperson	P	Jeremy Jeanne	A
Dr. Kathleen Andrus	P	Ted Laws	P
Dr. Bradley Bley	A	Chuck Little	P
Mike Breeding	P	Douglas Thompson	P
Robert Cilento	L	Stan Waterman	P
Dr. Matthew Donovan	P	Robert Watson	A
Dr. Evelyn Edney	P	Michael Rodriguez –DOE Associate Secretary	P
Vetra Evans-Gunter	A	Donna Polk – DIAA Executive Director	P
Dr. Kevin Fitzgerald	A	Laura Makransky – Deputy Attorney General	P
Bruce Harris	P	Stephanie Mark-DIAA Coordinator	P
Mike Hart	P		
P= Present A = Absent L= Late arrival			

Minutes

I. Opening

A. Call to Order

Dr. Bradley Layfield called the meeting to order at 12:32 P.M.

B. Roll Call

Please see above.

C. Approval of Agenda

Mr. Ted Laws made a motion to approve the agenda, the motion was seconded by Mr. Mike Hart.. The motion carried with a vote 11 Yes [Andrus, Breeding, Donovan, Edney, Harris, Hart, Laws, Layfield, Little, Thompson, Waterman] and 0 No.

D. Approval of Minutes of DIAA December 10, 2020 Board Meeting

This agenda item is tabled until the next scheduled meeting.

E. Approval of Executive Session Minutes of DIAA December 10, 2020 Board Meeting

Matt Donovan made a motion to approve the minutes of DIAA December 10, 2020 Board Meeting and the motion was seconded by Mr. Mike Hart. The motion carried with a vote 9 Yes [Breeding, Donovan, Edney, Harris, Hart, Laws, Little, Thompson, Waterman] and 1 No [Layfield]

F. DIAA Financial Report

Ms. Polk reported that we are continuing not to collect revenue from championships. We are facing two real major expenses with Swimming and Wrestling which are both going to cost about \$40,000 cumulatively. Trying to get a sponsor for Wrestling and other sport championships as well. Finances continue to be a major concern. With Amoscita's departure, a lot of attention is being given to making sure all membership dues and IVS are processed and that those revenue dollars are included in the financial report. Mr. Laws

made a motion to approve the Financial Report and the motion was seconded by Dr. Bradley Layfield. The motion carried with unanimous vote 11 Yes [Andrus, Breeding, Donovan, Edney, Harris, Hart, Laws, Layfield, Little, Thompson, Waterman] and 0 No.

Robert Cilento joined at 12:38 P.M.

II. Action Items

A. Request to Use 8th Graders for High School Athletics 1009 2.7.5-Ursuline Academy

Mr. Hart made a motion to approve the action, the motion was seconded by Dr. Donovan. The motion carried with a unanimous vote of 11 Yes [Andrus, Breeding, Donovan, Edney, Harris, Hart, Laws, Layfield, Little, Thompson, Waterman] and 0 No.

Dr. Donovan made a motion to move into Executive Session and the motion was seconded by made Ted Laws. The motion carried with a unanimous vote of 11 Yes [Andrus, Breeding, Donovan, Edney, Harris, Hart, Laws, Layfield, Little, Thompson, Waterman] and 0 No.

Return from Executive session at 1:41 P.M.

III. Request to Waive 1009 2.3.1 by St. Andrew's School- 2021.1.0*

Dr. Donovan made a motion to waive 1009 2.3.1 for St. Andrews student and the motion was seconded by Vetra Evans-Gunter. The motion carried with unanimous vote 13 Yes [Layfield, Andrus, Breeding, Cilento, Donovan, Edney, Evans-Gunter, Harris, Hart, Laws, Little, Thompson, Waterman] and 0 No

IV. Ratification of Executive Director's Decision to Grant Interim Waiver*

A. Request to Waive Regulation 1009 2.7 by Tower Hill School-2021.1.1

Doug Thompson made a motion to recuse himself.

Ted Laws made a motion to ratify the interim waiver and the motion was seconded by Evelyn Edney. The motion carried with a vote 8 Yes [Andrus, Donovan, Edney, Fitzgerald, Harris, Laws, Little, Watson] 1 No [Hart,], 4 Abstain [Breeding, Cilento, Layfield, Waterman] 1 recused [Thompson] and 1 Absent [Evans-Gunter]. Ratification of interim waiver has been granted.

Schedule a live hearing or hearing panel in interim. Student will remain eligible.

Laura Makransky, DAG stated that per Regulation 1006.4.3, waiver requests decided by the Executive Director shall be temporary, and shall be subject to review and final approval by the Board of Directors.

V. Approval and Appointment of Committee Members

Girls Lacrosse Committee Members to be added Laurie Garrison, Appoquinimink High School and Heidi Pearce, St. Andrews School. Doug Thomson made a motion to approve the Lacrosse Committee Members; the motion was seconded by Mr. Fitzgerald and carried with a unanimous vote of 13 Yes [Layfield, Andrus, Breeding, Cilento, Donovan, Edney, Evans-Gunter, Harris, Hart, Laws, Little, Thompson, Waterman] and 0 No.

Track Committee Members to be added Tim Bamforth, Cape Henlopen High School. Kevin Fitzgerald made a motion to approve the Track Committee Member; the motion was seconded by Mr. Cilento and carried with a unanimous vote of 13 Yes [Layfield, Andrus, Breeding, Cilento, Donovan, Edney, Evans-Gunter, Harris, Hart, Laws, Little, Thompson, Waterman] and 0 No.

VI. Coronavirus COVID-19 Impact

A. Division of Public Health

Dana Carr, DPH stated that there are still high COVID-19 positivity rates in our state. We are around 9% positive on all the tests taken in the State. Rolling out vaccines and moved into category 1B for vaccine distribution, for individuals older than 65. Ms. Carr stated that we vaccinated over 10k people last weekend. Need school ID to receive vaccine. Ms. Carr stated that anyone who plays in competitions or game days out of state must quarantine for the required time when returning to Delaware that goes for DIAA schools club teams as well. Ms. Carr stated we are seeing cases related to sports teams, among and between teams throwing both teams into quarantine from a positive case and/or exposure. Reiterated honesty in health assessments. Groups of students quarantining due to a symptomatic player. Word from school nurses, this is having a big impact on their students and their ability to manage academics. Most positive cases are related to basketball and wrestling, fewer from swim, cheer and track. DPH is scheduled to speak with DIAA regarding tournaments and opportunities for playing for winter sports in the upcoming weeks.

B. Sports Season Consideration during the Academic Year 2020-21

- a. Nothing to report.

C. COVID-19 Positive Cases Update

- a. To date, we have 24 cases reported. So far this year, 8 games have been canceled

D. Winter Sports 2020-21

- a. Wrestling Sports Specific Guidance*
 - i. Reviewed DIAA Regulation 1011- Only change committee wanted is that Wrestler A's Mask Break Area be near their bench. Bob Watson made a motion to approve the wrestling sports specific guidance; the motion was seconded by Ted Laws and carried with a unanimous vote of 13 Yes [Layfield, Andrus, Breeding, Cilento, Donovan, Edney, Evans-Gunter, Harris, Hart, Laws, Little, Thompson, Waterman] and 0 No.
- b. Indoor Track Update
 - i. Stephanie Mark stated that this committee meeting made a lot of head way and they are trying to make everything outdoors. Working on putting together the logistics of events and trying to work in a framework within a facility plan to make sure student athletes and be able to shelter student athletes depending on cold weather.
- c. Spring Sports 2021
 - i. Intent is to move forward as normal as possible. Spring sports start on March 1 (Practice), March 22 (Competition), May 15 (Last Day of Competition), May 16-June 5 (Play-off dates). Spring Sports Committee Meetings will be in early February. Minimum game requirements will be to schedule. Keep maximum numbers and

reschedule at a later date due to COVID. All games must be scheduled 48-72 hours apart. Donna to check with DPH on Monday.

E. Determine Stage for DIAA Return to Play Plan

VII. Football Realignment Update

Jeremy Jeanne joined the meeting at 2:33 P.M.

The realignment allows 10 full weeks of games. Dr. Fitzgerald proposes that the Board have an emergency meeting within the next 1-2 weeks to discuss further. Maintaining player safety is the biggest concern. Dr. Fitzgerald stated that he appreciates the work everyone has taken on.

Donna will poll the board to confirm a future date for an emergency board meeting. All information will be sent to school Superintendents to solicit feedback to guide the Boards decision.

Bob Watson leaves at 2:50 P.M.

VIII. Rules and Regulation Committee Update

a. Proposed Amendment to DIAA Regulations 1008/1009 7.6

- i. Dr. Donovan stated coaching out of season regulations has made great strides. From Regulation 1009 7.6.1: From August 2nd through the first day after the last spring sport DIAA state tournament event, a certified, emergency or volunteer coach shall ~~not~~ be allowed to provide instruction out of the designated season in his or her assigned sport to any student registered in the school as a representative of a school sponsored team at which he or she coaches. 7.6.3. Effective Date- 7.6.3.1 Subsection 7.6 shall be effective on June 2, 2021?
- ii. Dr. Fitzgerald says we will have to adopt the following Definition to 1008/1009 1.0: Informal instruction consists of drills to teach sport specific skills with nothing more than demonstration level contact permitted, and does not involve team competition or contest. Intentional or direct contact drills are no permitted. Dead period is a period where no athletic related activities are permitted. Out of Season Coaching Dead Period is a period of time from the start of a sport season practice date until the date of completion of the sport season. Practice means working on skills for a particular sport within a single team at a Member School as guided by coaches and includes team workouts and inner team scrimmages. (Obtained from Regulation 1010 - do we want to use the same definition in Regulation 1009?) A Physical is required for any school contact activity.

Laura Makransky stated the deadline has passed for January. She would also like the Board to review what they look like before submitting to the registrar. Laura to review drafts and put into regulation for 1008/1009 7.6, 3.0, 6.5 and 7.0.

Table until we see updated Regulations. Dr. Fitzgerald makes a motion to table until updated regulations are prepared; Dr. Layfield seconds the motion. The motion carried with a unanimous vote.

IX. Coaching Out of Season Update

This agenda item was discussed in agenda item VIII.

X. Realignment of Private and Public Schools

- a. Dr. Layfield makes a motion to table until a later date when Board member Thompson would like to discuss. Doug Thompson seconds the motion. The motion carried with a unanimous vote.
- XI. Transfer Policy
- a. Dr. Donovan wants to give transfer discussion what it deserves. The coaching out of season conversation has been extensive. The Rules and Regulations committee will start next meeting with coaching out of season feedback and then will transition to transfer discussion. Dr. Fitzgerald makes a motion to table until updated regulations are prepared; Dr. Donovan seconds the motion. The motion carried with a unanimous vote.
- XII. Add Position to DIAA Staff-Sports Information Director
- a. Doug Thompson makes a motion to table until DIAA fully staffed. Dr. Layfield seconded the motion. The motion carried with a unanimous vote.
- XIII. Joint Legislative Oversight Sunset Committee Update
- a. Originally scheduled to present to the Sunset Committee on March 17, 2020. Ms. Polk stated that we are still in holding. Sunset Committee Session have started up within the last week. Sunset committee meeting next week. We should hear something within the next several weeks when DIAA will present. Discussion occurred around the board appointments and process.
- XIV. Executive Director's Report
- a. DIAA's secretary position vacancy will conduct second round interviews tomorrow.
 - b. NFHS Updates:
 - i. NFHS held their winter meeting first week of January. NFHS has created a Girls Lacrosse Rules committee to write rules for girls lacrosse. NFHS is in the process of forming the committee. NCAA - Name Image and Likeness is a hot topic. As information continues to come out, Donna will keep Board updated. NFHS has announced they will conduct a National Student Leadership Conference on July 21. DIAA will explore the opportunity for our student athletes.
 - c. DIAA Update:
 - i. An update was provided to the Board regarding an email shared with member schools last week regarding out of state tournament participation. Any person traveling out of state to participate in an out of state tournament must self-quarantine per DPH guidance.
 - ii. Regular Season competition - Ms. Polk shared member schools can only schedule competition to include two teams. Any competition involving more than two teams is considered a tournament and DPH approval is required.
 - iii. Nurses Call – Participated on the nurses call this past Tuesday. There were concerns expressed regarding out of state tournament quarantine protocols.
 - iv. Wilson Ball Contract – Wilson will transition to a new basketball 2021-2022 season. The EVO will be the new ball used starting 2021-2022.
 - v. Wrestling officials have low numbers as of this meeting there are only 18 officials available to cover matches.
 - vi. Ms. Mark provided an update she is working on getting winter sport rules books out to member schools. Spring Rules Clinics have been scheduled for mid-February.
- XV. Other Items For Discussion Only
- XVI. Public Comment

- a. Trina LeClerc – Wanted to comment on out of season coaching. Thanked Dr. Donovan and Dr. Layfield on the work done this month. Feels great strides are being made. Believes there may have been violations that occurred pre-COVID that should be addressed. Feels this is a good step in the right direction and opens the playing field for student athletes to be coached with coaches that are more qualified. There was a mention earlier in the meeting about a Volleyball Club going out of state and she wanted everyone to know it was not her Volleyball Club. Realized that this is a heavy lift and is happy the kids are getting an opportunity to play. Look forward to the progress.

XVII. Adjournment

- a. Matt Donovan makes a motion to adjourn; Mike Hart seconds the motion. The motion carried with a unanimous vote. Meeting adjourned at 3:24pm

